account of export of consultancy services, including computer software exports, and growth rate during the last 3 years are as under:

Year	Foreign Exchange Earnings (Rs. crores)	Growth rate
1990-91	312	
1991-92	720	130%
1992-93	831	15%
1993-94	1650 (estimated)	98%

Source: Federation of Indian Export Organisations.

Enhancement in Agricultural Exports after GATT

*391. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the prospect of expansion of agricultural exports during the coming ten years following the signing of GATT agreement?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): The Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture envisages (i) the "tariffication" of all non-tariff border measures, a target reduction of 36 per cent in the resulting tariffs and existing customs duties, and a binding of all agricultural duties at the new levels; (ii) a 20 per cent reduction in domestic support measures (expressed in the form of an aggregate measurement of support); and (iii) reductions of 36 per cent in budgetary outlays on export subsidies and reduction by 21 per cent in the quantity of subsidised exports. Adoption of these measures will enhance market access opportunities for agricultural commodities in all countries, both developed and developing, besides having a positive impact on the prices of agricultural products in the world market.

India has a comparative advantage in the production of agricultural commodiites because of our diverse agro-climatic conditions, our reasonable labour costs and the lower import requirements of this sector. The recent exchange rate adjustments and the liberalisation in Export Policy have significantly enhanced the competitiveness of agro-exports. Hence, the country is likely to gain significantly from the more open world trade policy environment in agriculture.

Non-payment of wages by British India Corporation Ltd.

*392. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that British India Corporation Limited, a Government of India Undertaking, has been violating labour laws by not adhering to the stipulated date of payment of wages to its employees and to the employees of its subsidiary or associate Companies;

(b) whether the Undertaking is also not depositing the amount of GPF contribution of the employees regularly;

(c) whether Government have not initiated any action against the management of the Undertaking so far; and

(d) if so, the factors and reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (d) It is reported that up-to-date payment of wages has not been possible in one subsidiary company (Brushware Ltd.) and also in two associate companies (Champarun Sugar Company and Saran Engineering Ltd.) of the British India Corporation Limited and that there has been default in payment of C.P.F. contributions, on account of severe working capital shortage. While the State Government are the appropriate authorities for initiating action for delay in payment of wages under the Payment of Wages Act,

1936 to the extent it is applicable, the Central Government is the appropriate authority for initiating action for non depositing of CPF contributions regularly. The employees Provident Fund Organisation has already initiated necessary legal and penal action in the case of units other those referred to BIFR.

Depleting cattle stock leads to soaring Import Bill

*393. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the fast depleting stock of cattle in the country has led to soaring bills of the import of dung, pesticides, wool and fertilisers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that for every Rupees 1 crore earned through meat export the country is losing as much as Rupees 15 crores;

(c) if so, the justification of the export of meat;

(d) whether Government also propose to reconsider this aspect of the export with a view to avoiding adverse fall in country's foreign exchange reserves; and

(e) if so, by when a decision is likely to be taken in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) According to the Animal Census conducted in 1982 and 1987, the stock of cattle in the country is increasing.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Export of beef is totally banned. Export of meat and animal bye-products like leather and leather goods earn valuable foreign exchange and generate employment. Further, export of meat from buffaloes used for breeding and milch purposes is banned.

Postponement of Coffee Board Auction

*394. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sixteenth Common Coffee Board auction fixed for Wednesday, the 3rd August, 1994 was postponed;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any such auction had earlier been postponed and if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The common auction scheduled for 3rd August, 1994 could not be conducted since some of the dealers particularly exporters had boycotted the auction protesting about the delay in issue of export permits by the Coffee Board. The domestic dealers also joined them and did not participate in the auction.

(c) The 15th common auction scheduled for Wednesday, the 20th July, 1994 could not be conducted since all the domestic market dealers boycotted the auction protesting against reserve prices fixed by the Coffee Board for that day's auction. The exporters also had joined the domestic dealers in boycot.

देश में दुर्घटना प्रवण खानें

*395. **चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह:**
श्री आस मोहम्मद:

क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने देश में दुर्घटना प्रवण खानों का पता लगवाया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो वे खानें कौन-कौन सी हैं; और

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि 1989—93 के दौरान जिन कोयला कम्पनियों की कोयला खानों में दुर्घटना घटित हुई थी उनके विरुद्ध अब तक कोई कार्रवाई नहीं की गई है?